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engaging in productive enterprises; they should never do more than regulate.

In the last 90 pages the author takes up the theories of Marx and of Webb and demonstrates that socialism is impossible, self-destructive and generally pernicious. In proof of his statements he offers the failures of Owen's "New Harmony," of the "National Workshops of 1848" and of the "Poplar Workhouse." The real arguments against socialism are fairly well stated, together with some that are unreal and some that are absurd.

Mr. Headley assures us in his preface that he does not expect to convert the "full-blown" socialist, nor is he very likely to do so; nevertheless, it will be well worth while for the socialist to spend an evening with *Darwinism and Modern Socialism*, if only to stimulate thought and to counteract the emotional attitude taken by so many socialist writers. The individualist will be delighted to find all his contentions fully confirmed.

GEORGE B. LOUIS ARNER.

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The Government of the District of Columbia. By WALTER F. DODD. Washington, John Byrne and Company, 1909.—298 pp.

Dr. Dodd has written a book which may serve several purposes. For the citizens of the area treated, it affords a comprehensive reference book on the organization and operation of their government. For the federal legislators and executive officials to whom are entrusted the affairs of the national capital, it furnishes an important aid in their somewhat burdensome task. To the ordinary citizen in the country at large, it gives an opportunity to learn how the capital of the nation is governed. To the general student of politics, it presents, to quote from the title page, "a study in federal and municipal administration"; showing, on the one hand, the workings of a peculiar branch of the federal government and furnishing, on the other, a contribution to the fund of data on the difficult subject of city government. To cover so wide a field in a small volume is no easy task, and in some instances the intermixture of the popular and the scientific produces a rather incongruous effect; but, on the whole, there is little to criticize in this respect.

Although a study of Washington throws no light upon the municipal problems which arise in large industrial centers, Dr. Dodd has nevertheless selected a subject both interesting and important. With no popular representation in its government, with scarcely any influence

of partisan politics, with some of its local affairs directly handled even in their details by the national government and with a governmental plan belonging in general to the much discussed commission system but yet in a class of its own, Washington's political conditions are so special, so peculiar to itself, as quite to justify extended attention. These peculiarities have made it the subject of much controversial discussion, particularly in the last few years, as a result of the increased attention paid to the government of the city by Presidents Roosevelt and Taft; yet the book is essentially not controversial. It is almost throughout an unbiased exposition of facts, and as such it has a special value which would not attach to the results of an investigation stimulated by a controversial motive. Nevertheless, if there is one general criticism to be made, it is on this head. The author has made his work rather too exclusively a collation of facts, keeping his own personal opinions too consistently in the background, except in the short concluding chapter. Any one who has made so extended and thorough an investigation might naturally be expected to have much valuable comment to add to the facts presented.

As a compilation of facts, however, the book is certainly well done. It is remarkably thorough and detailed. Facts from practically every source have been brought together within the single volume, thus saving subsequent investigators of the subject the most tedious part of their task. All the sources are authoritative and are indicated in numerous footnotes and in a comprehensive bibliographical summary. The information is also strictly up-to-date, including happenings as late as the close of the session of Congress in March, 1909.

The first three chapters are historical, giving an account of the establishment of the capital and of the various forms of government until the institution of the present system in 1878. The next following chapters explain the general features of the present government, the relations of the federal government, the board of commissioners and the finances. Eight chapters, forming nearly half of the book, detail the various municipal activities at considerable length and are of comparatively slight interest to the general reader; but the closing pages return to general topics. The account of the growth of citizens' associations, as a means of voicing the popular will in a government in which the ballot is altogether lacking, though brief, is of considerable interest. The same may be said of the concluding chapter on the relative merits of the present and of the various proposed systems of government.

GEORGE W. HODGKIN.